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FILE COPY

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

SP - 96/79
30 May 1979

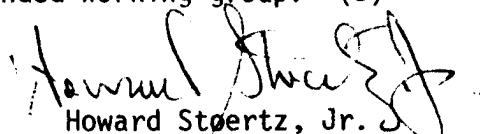
MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Director, National Foreign Assessment Center

FROM: National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programs

SUBJECT: Response to Request for an NIE (U)

1. Action Requested: Your approval and signature to the attached letter. (U)
2. Background: As the attached correspondence indicates, we have received a well-thought-out request for an NIE on long-term prospects for Soviet military R&D from Bill Perry, Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. We should respond favorably to this legitimate request for assistance. CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence and other intelligence agencies are already contributing extensively but piecemeal to forward thinking by Perry and his people with respect to long-term future challenges and opportunities for the US posed by Soviet military-related technology. This request will require them to organize this piecemeal work into a coherent whole. The community will have to move out smartly, however, to have a draft by November. (S)
3. In past projects of this sort (i.e., projects where there is a central core of technical expertise but other factors such as military requirements and intentions must be brought to bear), we have employed the technique of using an intelligence community working group to prepare the draft paper. OSI's Military Technology Division indicates that it is willing to manage such a working group. [redacted] the division chief, who has done considerable work with Perry's office on future Soviet technological prospects, will maintain personal cognizance over the project. He has assigned [redacted] one of his senior experts, to chair the proposed working group. (S) 25X1
4. Recommendation: That you sign the attached letter to Bill Perry accepting the task and authorize us to request the intelligence community to participate in this project via the recommended working group. (S) 25X1


Howard Stortz, Jr.

Attachment

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25X1

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SP - 96/79

SUBJECT: Response to Request for an NIE (U)

Distribution:

- 1 - DCI
- 1 - DDCI
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25X1

NIO/SP:HStoertz: (30May79)

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bill,

It has been almost seven years since an NIE on Soviet Military Research and Development was prepared. Your request of 7 May is a timely reminder that we should once again address the status of Soviet R&D and technology and its implications for future Soviet military capabilities.

I have asked the National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programs, Howard Stoertz, to direct the preparation of a new NIE on this subject, responsive to the outline of concerns you transmitted. To insure that the estimate represents a community-wide effort, he plans to activate a working group of representatives of the major intelligence components with expertise in this area. The working group will be under the day-to-day management of CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence, whose experts are already working closely with your office on related matters.

Howie and the people working with him will be in touch with Paul Berenson as they proceed on the project.

Yours,



STANSFIELD TURNER

The Honorable William J. Perry
Under Secretary of Defense
for Research and Engineering
Washington, D.C. 20301

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SP - 97/79

LETTER: Response to Request for an NIE (U)

Distribution:

- 1 - W.J. Perry, USDRE
- 1 - DCI
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NIO/SP:HStoertz



(30May79)

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